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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,430	08/17/2001	Bing Chao	EKM-81895	3438

7590 04/23/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

DUONG, THANH P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3711	13

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/932,430

Applicant(s)

CHAO ET AL.

Examiner

Tom P Duong

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 13-21,23 and 30-35 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-12,22,24 and 29 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

- 6) Claim(s) 13-21,23 and 30-35 is/are rejected.

- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,7,10.

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 13-21, 23, and 30-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Hocknell et al. (6,440,011) and Official Notice. Regarding claims 13-14, 17-18, 21, 23, 30-34, Hocknell '011 discloses a golf club comprising: a body 44 having crown 62 (Col. 5, lines 15-22) having thickness range of 0.025-0.060 inch, face height of 48mm, rear section 70 (best understood to be the skirt), and a sole 64 having thickness range of 0.025-0.060 inch, weight members 122 and 123, and a golf club volume ranging from 175-400 cc. Hocknell does not disclose the material properties of the striking face; however Hocknell discloses the face member 60 made of alpha-beta titanium and/or titanium alloy and Official Notice is taken that such material inherently has the same properties as the claimed invention since the materials are the same. It appears that Hocknell shows the crown and sole transition distance of the claimed invention or it would have

been obvious to fabricate it as such. Hocknell discloses coefficient of restitution approaching 0.93 (Col. 3, lines 53-55). With respect to the loft angle, USGA requirements specify a loft angle 10° or less; thus, Hocknell's golf club has the loft angle per USGA requirements. It is possible to design a loft angle greater than 10°, but the golf club will not comply with USGA requirements. Regarding claim 14, Official Notice is taken that it is known in the art to attach the striking face to the club head by means of epoxy glued, screws, bolts, and welding, and it would be obvious to weld the face to the body to improve strength. Regarding claim 15, Official Notice is taken that it is inherent that the alpha beta titanium and/or titanium alloy of the striking face is either formed from the cold forging process or hot forging process or it would be obvious to do so as is conventional in order to obtain the desired hardness. Regarding claims 16, 18 and 23, Official Notice is taken that it is known in the art to thickening the sole portion or add weights to the sole portion to lower the center of gravity and it is inherent to do so here to gain the same benefits. Regarding claim 19, Official Notice is taken that it is known in the art to use the titanium alloy with various composition combination including the combination of the claimed invention. Regarding claims 34 and 35, it appears that the weights 122 and/or 123 of Hocknell are welded to the sole, and Official Notice is taken that it would be obvious to fabricate the weight member integral with the sole to facilitate assembly.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom P Duong whose telephone number is (703) 305-4559. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Sewell can be reached on (703) 308-2126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 873-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

Tom Duong
April 16, 2003


Paul T. Sewell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700